



◆ Haz Mat Release ◆

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HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION



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Prevention Bureau

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Materials Division

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Men Arrested in Hazardous Waste Plot By Stan Townsend

Apparently, the temptation to make a few extra bucks on the side was the motivation behind a hare-brained scheme to illegally dispose of hazardous waste by a veteran City of Los Angeles-trash truck driver, and an owner of a roofing company that specializes in urethane foam application. The driver, without permission, borrowed a trash truck on his day off and drove the truck to Sunco Products in East Los Angeles where he and Sunco employees loaded the truck to capacity with containers of toxic and flammable wastes. The driver then returned the truck, fully loaded with the waste, to the City yard in Sun Valley and parked it alongside the other trash trucks, perhaps hoping that no one would notice. But the leaking drums gave them away, and the scheme cost them plenty. The driver and roofer were arrested last month. They face up to 30 years in federal prison.

The pickup occurred on a Saturday, the driver's day off. Alfred Vallejo borrowed a trash truck without permission from the city's Sanitation Bureau yard in Sun Valley where he worked. Vallejo drove to Sunco, a roofing company that specializes in polyurethane foam application, and picked up 37 drums and 165 five-gallon buckets of toxic and flammable wastes. He then drove the loaded truck back to the yard and parked it next to the other trash trucks.

That afternoon, however, an-

other driver who had just finished his route, noticed an unusual liquid dripping from the back of the parked trash truck. At first, he assumed it was hydraulic oil from the truck's compactor. When he opened the rear door, several steel drums fell out of the truck, and a thick liquid spilled to the ground. The driver hurried to the yard's office to tell his supervisor. The supervisor called the City of Los Angeles Fire Department. HHMD emergency responders (ERs), Irwin Biederman and Al Aguilar, also were dispatched to the city yard. Surveying the scene, the ER team realized that a serious environmental crime had occurred. They requested the assistance of the HHMD investigations unit.

When investigators Stan Townsend and Paul Biren arrived at the yard, they found several 55-

gallon drums lying on the pavement behind the trash truck. The drums were leaking an odorous, dark-colored liquid. Some were marked "isocyanate" and others "polyol resin," the two components of polyurethane foam. Isocyanates, in addition to being RCRA-listed hazardous wastes, are also irritants and sensitizers.

The investigators isolated the scene, interviewed witnesses, collected evidence and took photographs. They called a hazardous waste contractor to the yard to unload the containers as investigators inspected them. The truck had been packed from front to rear and from floor to ceiling with more than 200 containers. The containers were moved to an

(See Plot, page 2)



Hazardous waste drums fell from the trash truck as the rear door was opened.

Pickup Scheme Unearthed

(Plot, continued from page 1)
isolated area of the yard--the investigators and ERs worked into the night directing the unloading and staging of the containers. On Monday morning, investigators returned to the yard to examine the containers and take samples for analysis.

Several possible suspects were identified and investigated, but one suspect company in particular, Sunco Products, seemed to stand out from the others due to its distance from the City yard. Maintenance records obtained from the sanitation yard showed that the trash truck had been driven 49 miles since the previous Friday night. Investigator Gillaspay drove the distance from the city yard to Sunco and back, and reported the distance to be 48 miles. He also reported observing equipment at Sunco that could be used in the polyurethane coating business, as well as foam insulation on the roof and walls of the Sunco warehouse, and drums with markings identical to those found in the trash truck.

Meanwhile, HHMD investigators Townsend and Judy Watkins, and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Haz-Mat officers interviewed drivers and other employees at the yard. The samples taken from the containers were analyzed, and the laboratory chemist reported that the samples contained hazardous constituents.

By Tuesday morning, the investigators believed that they had compiled sufficient

evidence and that they had probable cause to obtain a search warrant for the Sunco facility. Investigator Townsend prepared an affidavit and a search warrant which was signed by a county Superior Court judge on Thursday. On Friday morning, six days after the waste was discovered, the investigators searched Sunco with inspectors Linda Schweizer, Eiji Watanabe, and Bob Nasser. The LAPD provided security during the search.

Among the critical evidence they found was a copy of a \$500 check made out to Alfred Vallejo for "trash removal" on the day of the incident. Also seized was Sunco's answering machine with a voice message (The voice on the machine was later verified Vallejo's) advising Sunco owner Van Furhiman that "things got pretty serious. They blocked off the yard, they're fingerprinting, they're asking questions and Haz-Mat crews in moon suits are all over the yard. Things don't look too good, but you know me, my mouth is shut." A subpoena of bank records later showed that Vallejo cashed his \$500 check on Tuesday, despite the investigation. In addition to paper evidence, investigators found in Furhiman's office a cache of loaded firearms, which were turned over to the LAPD officers.

The case was referred to the U.S. Attorney's office. Last month, federal agents arrested Furhiman and Vallejo--a six-count indictment includes conspiracy, illegal transportation of hazardous wastes, transportation of hazardous wastes to an unauthorized location, and transporting hazard-

ous waste without a hazardous waste manifest. Furhiman was also charged with illegal storage of hazardous wastes at the Sunco facility. Each of the counts in the indictment carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

As for Vallejo, he resigned from his job with the Bureau of Sanitation. Furhiman is still operating Sunco Products. The cost to the city for the clean up and disposal was more than \$35,000.

This investigation was a success due to the concerted efforts of the HHMD investigators, ERs and inspectors, along with the FBI and the LAPD.



A Los Angeles trash truck was packed with hazardous waste containers.

Radiation Threat Scenarios and You

By Jojo Comandante

The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 raised our awareness of terrorism. The media bombarded us with stories about terrorism and the war waged against it. Suddenly, long after the Cold War is over, radiation and nuclear explosions have become part of our consciousness again.

These are the general scenarios for a possible terrorist attack with radiation:

- **Nuclear explosion.** Nuclear weapons require highly sophisticated and expensive technology. Terrorists would have to expend tremendous funds and manpower to achieve this threat sce-

nario. The most destructive bomb that terrorists could likely get a hold of would be equivalent to 10 kilotons of TNT.

Detonation of such a nuclear weapon produces blast waves that can kill up to one-half mile. There is a 50 percent survival rate from thermal burns and initial radiation for distances of up to one mile. For distances of up to 6 miles, there is a 50 percent survival rate from a one-hour exposure to fallout radiation.

- **Attack on a radiological source.** Another possible terrorist scenario is an attack on a radiological source, the most logical of which would be a nuclear power plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulates civilian use of nuclear materials



Bill's Corner

The importance of community in our everyday lives cannot be underestimated. As a shared Los Angeles County Fire Department core value, it is important that we consider "community" a guiding principle. Community, and our relationship with family, friends and acquaintances is as large and complex as we choose to get involved. It may involve churches, kids' sports, neighbors, and business contacts among others. How is the term, "community" applied in our work environment and why is it important?

For most of us, living and working in Los Angeles County is a choice we make, knowing the pros and cons of living in such a diverse large metropolitan area. Many make the choice because of who or what is available here—nearby relatives, the climate, job opportunities, or perhaps a desire to be close to the many attractions and resources such as the beaches, mountains and deserts. The community each of us live in is an integral part of our lives. The church and schools we and our families or friends attend, as well as the activities that we become involved in, are all parts of the life that we mold for our families and ourselves. Being part of that community and being able to communicate to that community are important roles for the HHMD as well.

How do we do that, and what kinds of activities demonstrate

our connections to the community? The numerous examples include public information, participating in community events, teaching in local colleges and universities and providing guest speakers to community and business groups. By informing folks of what we do, safe

practices and conservation, the HHMD extends its arms around the community as a teacher and advisor.



In the event of emergencies, including disasters and terrorism, the HHMD's role will be critical in terms of communicating concerns, advisories and information. No matter who carries the message—whether it's a medical doctor or a public information officer—the message should be the same.

On this core issue of community, the HHMD has done a lot but has been out of the limelight. We have accomplished many of these activities without gathering much attention. I commend those of you who are involved with outreach projects. It is a validation of the excellent work you do here, and it also speaks towards our collective roles in representing our division and the department.

Radiation Threats

(Continued from Scenarios, page 2)

to ensure adequate protection of public health and of the environment, and to promote common defense and security. It regulates nuclear power plants and sets rules on security and access to sensitive areas. It also works with other federal agencies, including the FBI, to compare their watch list with nuclear power plant employees. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits any aircraft from flying over nuclear power plants. The effects of an attack on a power plant would be similar to those of the industrial accident at Chernobyl.

- **Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD), or dirty bomb explosion.** The most common and probably the easiest scenario to achieve would be the dirty bomb. It is a simple conventional explosive or bomb that causes the purposeful dissemination of radioactive material across an area without nuclear detonation. Death is unlikely to be caused by the radiation from a dirty bomb. Serious injuries and deaths would likely result from the explosion itself. Because most people would instinctively run away from the explosion, potential exposure to the radiation is reduced. The NRC receives about 300 reports per year of stolen or lost radioactive materials, but has yet to identify a credible threat regarding missing radioactive materials that is being collected for use in a dirty bomb.

The average annual dose per person from all sources

(including earth's background radiation, cosmic or outer space radiation, TV and X-rays) is about 360 millirems. For those who work with and around radioactive material, international standards allow up to 5,000 millirems per year. The LD_{50/60} (that which will kill 50 percent of exposed people not receiving appropriate medical care within a period of 60 days) is approximately 350,000 millirems. An LD_{50/60} exposure may come

from any of the above radiation threat scenarios, depending on the distance from ground zero and the actual radioactive material used. Acute high dose radiation causes cell death, disrupted cell growth and changes in sperm cell motility. Low dose radiation may cause delayed effects such as life shortening, carcinogenesis, cataract formation, decreased fertility and genetic mutations. It is imperative that when one suspects radiation exposure, whether in high or low doses, medical attention is sought immediately.

The best defense against radiation threats is knowledge and information; know the facts and act accordingly. For more information, log on to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission web site at www.nrc.gov.



Terrorism Health and Hazardous Materials Committee

By Bill Jones

The Terrorism Health and Hazardous Materials Committee (THHMC) has been meeting monthly since last fall. This group is comprised of representatives from the Department of Health Services (DHS), the HHMD, Health Programs, and EMS units. DHS has representatives to assist the committee from a variety of departments, including Acute Communicable Disease Control, Bioterrorism Program, Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Radiation Management, Communications, Environmental Health, Public Health Laboratory, and Emergency Medical Services Agency.

The THHMC has prepared a Strategic Direction document that outlines its objectives. It is the intention of the committee to have this document signed by the Health Officer and the Fire Chief to foster support and understanding. Examples of the objectives include the following:

- Establish a mechanism of interdepartmental coordination.
- Identify and expand regional training resources.
- Review and make recommendations on health-related response protocols.
- Serve as a resource to the Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) group.
- Create a memorandum of understanding that defines the departments' roles and responsibilities.

The THHMC will be evaluating and making recommendations on a number of protocol issues including drills, training, roles and responsibilities, threat assessments, area wide sampling, operations, communications and hospital standards. They also include sampling protocols, equipment and methodology. Most important will be discussions about our roles and responsibilities, given a variety of scenarios.

This committee also proposed funding a project by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) to be involved with various efforts, not the least of which would be to coordinate regional terrorism training and to serve as a clearinghouse for new or emerging field technology. In its latter role, UCLA would test or coordinate testing of new and emerging field equipment and instruments that might be helpful in analyzing for nuclear, biological and chemical agents.

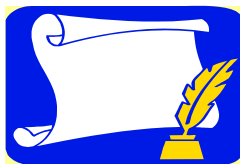
The THHMC has also prepared a list and organization chart to identify key players in the health and fire departments, in the event of a bioterrorist attack. This critical information sheet will be available to all personnel in both departments, and would be a link for responsible individuals to communicate with each other.

Finally, once the smallpox program is completed, other bio-agents will be considered in terms of preparedness. Many experts believe that, for all the efforts related to smallpox, this is only the beginning of a long and arduous process.

New Legislation

Jan. 1, 2003

By Victor Nanadiego



SB 489 Hazardous Waste Handling (Romero). This added Article 6.6 to Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the Health & Safety Code. By July 1, 2003, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) must adopt a list of hazardous waste concerns. The list includes waste that DTSC determines will require special handling restrictions because it might be used as a weapon of mass destruction. The bill requires hazardous waste facilities operators and transporters of the listed waste to monitor the loading, transferring and unloading operations of the extremely hazardous waste using electronic video surveillance. Operators must annually submit to DTSC an annual disclosure statement about the company. And, the portion of the vehicle be-

ing used to store the waste during transit would have to be locked. DTSC also is required to conduct a background check within 180 days after receiving a disclosure statement.

SB 1257 Hazardous Materials Transportation (Murray). Any vehicle transporting hazardous materials must be equipped with a working two-way communication device. The vehicle also must contain an enclosed cargo body that is locked during transit, to prevent any unauthorized access.

This law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to inspect the motor carrier terminal facility on a priority basis, while the DMV also has right to inspect more frequently. Furthermore, hazardous materials facilities' authorized representatives must ensure that their drivers have the proper documents for legal transport of hazardous materials.

Administrative Enforcement Order Penalty Box

By Deirdre Williams

- **Aerosol Services Co., Inc.**, a large quantity RCRA generator in the city of Industry agreed to a \$27,784 settlement of its case for storing roughly 200 drums of ignitable waste greater than 90 days. The accepted penalty included adjustments for recalcitrant behavior and for delaying compliance. *Submitted by T. Provost.*
- **A national retailer of home improvement products**, settled its case with a final penalty of \$12,000 plus agency cost of \$2214 after its store #6689 in Cypress Park transported and delivered its hazardous waste to a THHWCF in El Monte. Delivery of the waste resulted in charges of disposing of hazardous waste to an authorized location and transportation by an unregistered transporter. In addition to paying the agreed upon penalty, the business is also required to attend compliance school and to establish a corporate liaison to work with HHMD to verify licensing and to establish compliance in each of its local stores. *Submitted by R. Clark.*



- As a result of an inspection conducted during HHMD's Environmental Justice Inspection scheme, **Alco-Cad Plating**, in Los Angeles was fined \$9250 and directed to attend compliance school. The business was charged with failing to label treatment system tanks and containers, to report recycling

activities, to keep containers containing a hazardous waste closed, to conduct inspections of the hazardous waste storage area, to maintain a contingency plan, and to provide personnel training. The violations were deemed recalcitrant and penalized accordingly. *Submitted by M. Moss.*

- **Sal's Plating**, a Los Angeles metal plating shop that conducts on-site treatment of aqueous waste with chrome, was charged with failing to submit on-site treatment notification. The shop had been directed on two separate occasions to notify the HHMD. Operating without a permit or consent from DTSC, the business settled its case for \$4,117. It also hired a consultant to complete the necessary paperwork to continue treatment activities. *Submitted by K. Codding.*

Law Enhances Local Enforcement

By Deirdre Williams

Governor Gray Davis last year signed Assembly Bill 2481, which significantly changes the way in which hazardous materials handling violations may be addressed. The procedures parallel the process for issuing administrative orders for hazardous waste violations pursuant to the Health and Safety Code.

The law is intended to consolidate existing enforcement practices so that Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPAs) and Participating Agencies (PAs) throughout the state would exercise enforcement in such a manner that Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) would be treated equally and consistently.

As of Jan. 1, 2003, the code, under Section 25404.1.1, gives UPAs (CUPAs plus PAs) the authority to issue administrative orders while assessing administrative penalties as a formal enforcement option to resolve non-minor violations pertaining to business plan submittals, CalARP violations and underground storage tank management, as well as spill prevention control countermeasures.

The new section also gives respondents the option of using a

state or local hearing officer to dispute alleged violations. The local hearing officer is established by the local jurisdiction, and must follow the Administrative Procedure Act in the Government Code.

The section defines minor violations of statutory or regulatory requirements other than hazardous waste.

Traditionally, minor violations were a subset of hazardous waste Class II violations. Classifying the violations delineates which infractions are subject to formal enforcement.

In addition to imposing changes in the enforcement practices for hazardous materials handling, the bill also made changes in the regulations for storage of hazardous substances in underground tanks imposing new requirements on local agencies.

A copy of the law may be obtained from the following Web site: www.leginfo.ca.gov.



California's Aboveground Storage Tanks

By Bill Jones

The Cal CUPA Forum Board (Board) is evaluating a proposal to turn over implementation of the Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) program to Unified Program Agencies (UPAs). The proposal by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) does not include cleanup or remediation at locations where releases would impact groundwater. However, it may include cleanup where only soils are involved and where local agencies are willing and able to take on that responsibility.

The entire proposal is presented in draft statutory language prepared for discussion and recently distributed to all unified program agencies (see CalCUPA.net). Several local agencies feel strongly about taking responsibility for ASTs, since the take-over would further consolidate hazardous materials programs at the local level. They said that because we are already conducting inspections in those facilities, it would not be a difficult add-on. On the other side of the coin, there has been little if any AST implementation by the state. If the locals take responsibility, they must be given adequate time to provide staff and resources for efficient implementation.

The Board is concerned about several parts of the proposal and has written to and met with the SWRCB about them. The Board's concerns include the mechanism for program funding and whether the fee structure will be found in state law (with amendments) or passed by local entities. Many UPAs have expressed concerns that the local governing bodies are hesitant,

and even in some cases unwilling, to pass ordinances that will create new programs and fees for regulated businesses. As a result, there are suggested amendments to AST statutes that include provisions for local funding enacted in state law.



There also are many logistical challenges to a locally run AST program. For example, the program may require the use of professional engineers. This is central to discussions between locals and the state of California. Since Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans require a professional engineer to prepare such plans, the review of such plans by a regulatory authority may require the same kind of staff.

Another concern by local agencies is the scope of the regulated universe. Many feel that it does not make sense to regulate tanks that are below 10,000 gallons in size. The Board is now evaluating proposals with a cost (of implementation) versus benefit (to public safety or to the environment) perspective. The proposal includes an amendment that restricts regulation to tanks with more than 10,000 gallons. Tanks greater than 1,320 gallons, but less than 10,000 gallons, would require annual registrations.

Other issues include training, inspection frequency, inspection requirements or checklists and enforcement expectations. The Board will soon take a position on the proposal and then convey its position to the SWRCB. ♦

HHMD Retiree

By Marlene Morgenstern

Loye Bohannon inherited his parents' sense of adventure and curiosity. So, the former HHMD Hazardous Materials Specialist III, said his retirement on March 20 is a growth opportunity. "I'm looking forward to having some freedom to pursue some of my interests, hobbies," said



Bohannon, 62, whose spent nearly 35 years with the county.

Bohannon grew up in Grant's Pass, Oregon, the youngest of six children. His father was a cabinetmaker and carpenter. His mother, who bought and sold real estate, was raised on the harsh prairies of the Midwest. Bohannon described his parents as "hardy people." "What I learned from my mother was perseverance. She was a very, very hardworking person and when she had a goal she stuck to it. And she had a very good sense of humor."

Initially, Bohannon wanted to be a pharmacist. He obtained an Associate in Arts degree in Pre-Pharmacy in 1966 from El Camino College. But, he opted instead for a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from California State

University, Northridge.

After he graduated in 1968, and passed a registration exam, Bohannon worked as a county public health sanitarian, now called a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) with the Inglewood Health Center. Five years later, he was promoted to senior sanitarian/health facilities surveyor and worked in Santa Monica for 16 years. He became a hazardous materials control specialist in 1989, and worked downtown, then for the Sylmar, Lomita and Commerce offices. Bohannon was a substitute office supervisor and participated in seven "Sweeps" projects to identify high-risk facilities and hazardous waste generators. His responsibilities included assessing damage and evaluating hazardous waste after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, the 1993 Malibu firestorm and the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

For the HHMD's Cal ARP, based in Commerce, Bohannon reviewed risk management plans and helped handlers create plans. He also reviewed Regulated Substance registration packages and helped with a database transfer project.

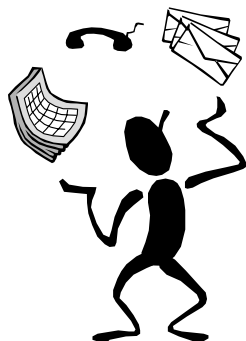
Bohannon and his wife Dorothy, a retired administrative assistant, were married in 1970. They love to eat gourmet food, travel, ballroom dance and spend time with their grandchildren. Bohannon also reads nonfiction and technical books, he said. In retirement he plans to travel, perhaps abroad. ♦

Envision Progress Report

By Lance Ralston

Progress is being made on several fronts with Envision. On the Inspection Section front, monthly reports have been incorporated into Envision to replace the hand tallies that were previously prepared by inspectors. A new improved procedure has been developed and is being placed into practice for situations where new facilities or programs are discovered by inspectors. This new procedure will allow inspectors to complete their dailies immediately upon their return to the office without having to wait for Senior Typist Clerks (STCs) to create new Owner, Facility and Program records in Envision.

The California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) program staff have now been trained on the use of daily express and daily review and will begin using Envision to record their time and activ-



ity. Two user-defined forms have been added to Envision to monitor and track the program status for CalARP facilities. The Site Mitigation Unit (SMU) has reviewed the new site mitigation module in version 2.7 and has determined which fields are of interest to their unit. An introduction session will be scheduled soon to orient SMU staff to Envision. SMU project sites will be entered into the system and time and activity procedures will then be developed for SMU staff to use. SMU should be fully integrated into Envision in approximately six weeks.

Envision liaisons, Beverly Migues and Barbara Yu, have been selected to help with the implementation of the Emergency Operations Section (EOS) into Envision. An orientation session will be scheduled soon to introduce EOS staff to Envision. A user-defined form will be developed in Envision to mimic the CHIMERS form used to document responses. This user-defined form will be attached to complaint records in Envision and will document EOS responses. Once this form is developed and implemented, time and activity procedures will be developed, EOS staff will be trained and will begin to use Envision to document their activities. The target date for the completion of the EOS integration into Envision is six months.

Meanwhile. The Information Management Division (IMD) is working on Envision upgrades. The upgrade to



version 2.7 was recently completed. The upgrade to Sybase 8 is scheduled to occur in early April. Sybase is the engine Envision uses for the database application and future versions of Envision will utilize Sybase 8 so it is important to complete this Sybase upgrade. Joseph Chou is working with IMD on a testing plan for Sybase 8. Each type of Envision User (Inspector, STC, Data Ops) needs to test all of their normal workflows with the New Sybase 8 version. Joseph Chou has developed and will coordinate this testing plan.

As you can see, lots of things are happening with Envision. I will keep you informed of the progress we are making. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and the cooperation you have shown in this regard. We are definitely making progress and things will continue to improve.

HHMD Retiree

By Annette Manning

Fidencio Domingo officially retired on Oct. 21, 2002 after 30 years of service to Los Angeles County. He earned his civil engineering degree from the Far Eastern University of Manila, and his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Sanitary Engineering from the National University in Manila. He began his career working for the county Assessor, the Sheriff's Department and then the Department of Health Services, for which he worked out of the San Antonio office. Fidencio was then promoted to Senior Sanitarian. He worked for the Hazardous Materials Control Program as a district inspector and an emergency responder. The program was transferred to Los Angeles County Fire Department in 1991 and Fidencio worked in the Emergency Operations Section, Central area.

Fidencio was one of the first hazardous material emergency responders. He recalls the old radio jargon and "on-call" names for the responders, such as "Hazmat Adam", "Hazmat David"

and good old "HazMat Henry!" The response vehicles included the carpool vehicles. The communication with dispatch included the use of pay phones and calling cards.

The easygoing Fidencio is now enjoying life by his poolside, doing yard work, golfing and lunching. He especially enjoys his family life with his wife Gregoria, or "GiGi," their three children, Ferari, John, and Jar and their 5 grandchildren, Rheo, Malayna, Jaylin, Anastasia and Christina Ferari.



Fidencio loves to travel. He has already vacationed in the Philippines, Thailand, China and Hong Kong. His future travel plans include Mexico, France and Portugal. His advice to his fellow HazMaters: "Enjoy life and appreciate all that you have." ♦

Remembering Annette Carrazco May 22, 1970 to March 12, 2003

By Mina Reyna

Annette Carrazco was born on May 22, 1970. She grew up in the Los Angeles area and graduated from Garfield High School. During her high school years, Annette was very active in the jazz and drill team. Annette was married in 1991 to her high school sweetheart. She has two daughters, Natalie and Breana.

Annette was a very positive, confident and beautiful woman. She began her county career as a student worker in 1989 and was promoted within two months to Intermediate Clerk with the fire department. In 1999,

Annette became a Senior Typist Clerk within the Data Operations unit.

Annette dealt with her illness and was accepting of what was to be. She was an inspiration to some of us, and helped us realize how precious life is. Annette will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She will remain in our hearts forever. The color purple, her favorite, has had a different meaning for me after having known Annette.



5th Annual California Unified Program Conference

By Walter Uroff

This year the Annual Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) conference was held at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. A total of 915 people attended this year's conference, up 30% from the previous year. Most CUPAs and Participating Agencies (PAs) were well represented and professionals from industry, other states and foreign countries attended the conference as well. (If an award were given for traveling the farthest, a German group would have won hands down.)

The Conference lasted 4 days this year with the first day devoted to 8 hour tracks. The second day was the official opening day with welcome speeches by the mayor and fire chief of Anaheim as well as the Secretary of Cal-EPA.

The conference offered a variety of courses

that were organized into seven, easy-to-follow tracks: CUPA Basics, CUPA Intermediates, CUPA Advanced, Underground Tanks, Administration & Management, Technology and Databases, and Enforcement. Those who presented the courses were well-prepared and thorough. Anyone interested in reviewing the presentations can find many of them posted in the conference center section on the CalCUPA website located at www.calcupa.net.

Overall, it was an excellent conference, thanks to the CUPA Forum Board and especially thanks to Christina Boyd, Mike Chapman, and Larry Matz for all the hard work they put into making the conference a success. Next year, the conference moves north to the Santa Clara Marriott. If things go as planned, the conference will be as good as this year's event.



Bill Jones

Chief

Health Haz Mat Division

Haz Mat Release is an effort to foster an exchange of information. We welcome any questions or comments.

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We are pleased to announce the addition of these staff members to our data operations and inspection sections:

- **Terri Sanchez,**
senior typist clerk
- **Matt Salcido,**
student worker

